IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
Pl ai nti ff,)
-VS-) No. 19-CR-009-GKF
HONGJIN TAN,)
Defendant.)

TRANSCRIPT OF PRETRIAL HEARING

BEFORE THE HONORABLE GREGORY K. FRIZZELL UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

OCTOBER 7, 2019

APPEARANCES

Joel-lyn A. McCormick, Assistant U.S. Attorney, 110 West Seventh Street, Suite 300, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74119, attorney on behalf of the Plaintiff;

Ryan A. Ray, Attorney at Law, Norman, Wohlgemuth, Chandler, Jeter, Barnett & Ray, 401 South Boston Avenue, Suite 2900, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74103, attorney on behalf of the Defendant.

REPORTED BY: BRI AN P. NEI L, RMR-CRR
Uni ted States Court Reporter

Monday, October 7, 2019

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DEPUTY COURT CLERK: This is Case No. 19-CR-009-GKF, United States of America v. Hongjin Tan. Counsel, please state your appearances for the record.

MS. MCCORMICK: Joel-lyn McCormick and Matthew McKenzie on behalf of the United States.

THE COURT: Good afternoon.

MS. MCCORMICK: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Ryan Ray here on behalf of Hongjin Tan. Mr. Tan is present in custody in the court today.

THE COURT: Good afternoon. We have at least four issues, I think, we need to discuss or at least you need to bring me up to speed on.

The first has to do with the defendant's recent brief that was filed September 30th at docket No. 127. Does the government wish to respond? I'd encourage you to do so because it raises some really interesting issues.

MS. MCCORMICK: Your Honor, several weeks ago the United States provided the defense with a draft trial protective order. We shared that with counsel. He did provide a red-line copy to the United States and we have since provided a reply. I believe as of this morning, the parties have reached an agreement regarding a proposed trial protective

order for the court's consideration.

THE COURT: If you would sketch it out for me so I understand where that agreement is.

MS. MCCORMICK: Yes, Your Honor. May I provide the court with a draft copy?

THE COURT: Please.

MS. MCCORMICK: Your Honor, as has been referenced in some of our prior proceedings, one of the biggest concerns was making sure there was a presentation that allowed for thorough direct and cross-examination while still protecting trade secret materials. And so what the parties have agreed -- or are proposing is that in reference to trade or trial-protected materials, that those materials be identified prior to the trial. I think from the government's perspective, that will be easy to do.

Additionally, we are proposing that the documents not only be numbered as exhibits but also that the pages and the lines of the trade secret materials be numbered so that counsel, witnesses, and the court, should the court have to direct attention to a particular exhibit and language contained therein, we can reference the page and line number as opposed to extensively referencing the substantive language within the document.

THE COURT: All right. And you all have both agreed before that any such documents not be displayed on these monitors to the gallery; correct?

MS. MCCORMICK: Yes, yes, Your Honor. And one point of clarification that we haven't finally discussed with counsel, but we would propose and would offer staff to make this happen, is to prepare notebooks for jurors that contain those trade secret documents as well so they're not strained to review the materials from the monitors, which they will be able to see, but we'll also prepare notebooks if that's helpful to the jurors' understanding or ability to follow the documents.

THE COURT: Any objection to that approach?

MR. RAY: No, Your Honor. Our revision was to paragraph 6(b) of what the government had proposed. I think with what we submitted, Your Honor, that we would recognize the propriety of not making extensive quotations so long as we can refer to documents and to portions of documents and summarize them. As we've said here, we have no problem not referring to numbers, data points, those type of things, that I think would strike at the -- at the heart of the issue. I think that is a reasonable position and we have no objection to proceeding as revised in paragraph 6(b) with what I sent to Ms. McCormick.

THE COURT: All right. I'm just imagining in my mind how this will play. And at some point, if you take the position, as you've represented to the court, that some of these materials are not trade secrets, obviously your expert has to explain why they are not. Won't this entail a little bit of walking of tightropes to try to avoid getting into the

substance?

MR. RAY: I think here's what I would say to that, Your Honor.

Obviously, some of these reports are pretty lengthy, and so it's not going to, I don't think, serve our interest to quote -- to just read line after line after line. But I think with what we've proposed, being able to refer to titles and titles of even sections, that we could say, well -- so I could talk to my expert and say, "Mr. Adams, you see the information on page 7 in the section, you know, entitled 'temperatures,' where is that also found," then he could reference potentially public sources. I don't think we're thereby quoting from the actual document, but he can explain why his beliefs and opinions are what they are without making quotations from these documents themselves.

THE COURT: Terrific. I'm glad you all have been able to work that out.

The second and third issues pertain to the outstanding motions, the first at docket No. 93. Is that moot or are there still issues that the court needs to resolve? And this is defendant's second motion for issuance of subpoena duces tecum. I know you were working on resolving that matter between yourselves.

MR. RAY: Your Honor, we have received as recently as Friday an additional production from counsel for Phillips

regarding what I think are still outstanding. I believe, Your Honor, as it specifically relates to the second motion, the thing I think is still outstanding, the production on the 4th was a redacted sample of a single agreement with a single customer. And so I have written back to counsel -- and that's Mr. Rosen with the Norton Rose Fulbright firm -- and have identified to him that we need to know at least that this type of language was in effect with all of the customers that are at issue in these reports.

And so I still need -- he hasn't responded yet -- and I don't want to fault him too greatly for that, Judge -- but to say I don't know that a sample of a single agreement is adequate when there's, I think, a handful of as many as ten customers and I don't know that every customer has the same language. So I'm still waiting to hear from him on that.

And we actually also, Judge, still have some issues with them on the first subpoena that I also addressed in that correspondence to Mr. Rosen. But as it specifically relates to docket No. 93, I think the confidentiality agreements issue, we've had a partial production but not a complete one.

THE COURT: All right. So correct me if I'm wrong, but the items that were still outstanding the last time we got together were items c, d, and f. So if I'm hearing you correctly, items c and d have now been resolved?

MR. RAY: May I have just one moment, Your Honor, to consult with the subject of the motion to make sure I'm speaking to the correct -- and just going from memory, I believe one of those may have been Mr. Tan's individual development plan. That was produced to us.

THE COURT: All right. That was item d. So that's been resolved.

Item c was basically the appearance of the LiveLink or Phillips 66 intranet homepage layout of both the research library and/or the Eureka access points.

MR. RAY: They have made a production with regard to that, Your Honor. I think they've said that they've had a system change and they may not can make a complete production, but they have made what they represent to be is available to them at this time. I mean, what they have is what they have. I would presume that's what they would say if a formal subpoena was actually issued to them. So they have represented to me that they have produced as much as they can produce in regard to that request. And so I don't presume I would receive any different response through a formal subpoena.

THE COURT: So then if I understand correctly, the only item outstanding is a portion of item f. You request any confidentiality agreements -- plural -- between Phillips 66 and the customers specifically applicable to the information contained in items 1 and 3 in the government's supplement to

its bill of particulars, and you say that you've received a single agreement and are simply asking whether or not that single agreement is reflective of all other confidentiality agreements?

MR. RAY: I think that's correct, Judge.

THE COURT: All right. So we'll show that remaining in that limited -- on that limited issue.

Anything from the government in that respect? I know that defense counsel was working with Phillips' outside counsel on this.

MS. MCCORMICK: Yes, Your Honor. I just simply want to point out -- and I think counsel referenced this but I want it to be clear -- that the last communication from counsel was on October 5th. And I have had some communication with Mr. Rosen's office this morning in reference to Mr. Ray's October 5th letter, but if the court -- since we just received this communication, we'd like an opportunity to confer.

THE COURT: Sure. Well, it sounds like we're making progress.

The other item -- and before I get to the last item that's showing outstanding on my docket, Mr. Ray made mention of the first motion for issuance of subpoenas. I don't see that as pending in front of me.

MR. RAY: I think that's correct, Your Honor. There is -- so the court granted that motion. We served that

subpoena on the company. I'm just simply saying in the communications with Mr. Rosen at the Norton Rose firm, we take issue -- and we've narrowed it down to a very significant degree. Our dispute is over a very small number of documents. I really believe there are less than five that are -- that are -- five or less that are in issue at this point and they relate just to what has been produced to us. And there's really two categories, Judge, which is the propriety of some redactions to some reports that were sent to Mr. Tan by e-mail. Let me explain to the court what -- what that relates to.

I, frankly, think, Judge, there may be a forthcoming filing from the company about this. They had indicated to me in a letter earlier this summer that if we could not reach agreement, that they would be making a filing in accordance with Section 1835 of Title 18 as it relates to this issue.

We've narrowed the scope significantly but there are -there are, I believe, four pages, Bates-numbered pages, that
are reports that were sent to Mr. Tan internally to the company
for his review. And one of the issues we deal with, Judge, in
this case is the allegation that there were -- that there was
very narrow topics that Mr. Tan had a business reason to access
and that he had no business reason to access other things.

And these things, Judge -- we've been provided with the titles themselves in a separate document, but we need to be able to at trial, from our perspective, say, here are some

discrete examples of things that were outside his direct area of assigned work that were nevertheless sent to him and that he was encouraged to review.

And really the question now is, are we going to be able to make use of these titles? We're really probably at a dispute over maybe 30 words, 40 words, something of that nature. But that is -- that is where we -- that's where we have narrowed the issue after working with them over a number of months about what's the production, what's been redacted, why has it been redacted.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. RAY: So that is one of the issues.

And the other issue is there are a couple of additional reports that Mr. Tan recalls receiving that I think would be in this same general description which have not yet been produced. We've done our level best from his memory to identify what they are and when they were sent and they've indicated that they will continue to search for that. I don't have any reason to doubt that they will.

But those are the issues that are still outstanding as it relates to the first subpoena.

THE COURT: Well, as to the 30 to 40 words issue, I'm trusting that after 40 years of doing this, I can make relatively quick work of that.

As to the other, I'm trying to get a sense. Were these

documents that Mr. Tan believes were sent to him via computer?

MR. RAY: Yes.

THE COURT: So there ought to be some sort of record showing that they were?

MR. RAY: Correct. And we've done our best over time, Your Honor, to identify those by date, to the best of his recollection, and by the author. We've given the name of that individual to counsel and we're trying to work through that process of giving them adequate descriptions and search terms, of course, proceeding from Mr. Tan's memory given that he is in the custodial setting he's in.

THE COURT: All right.

MS. MCCORMICK: May I, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes.

MS. MCCORMICK: Your Honor, the October 5th communication that I previously referenced sets out those outstanding areas in which the defense has requested materials from the -- from the company. And we've talked about No. 1, which were the confidentiality agreements, but Mr. Ray's most recent comments are in reference to the second category and then I'll speak to the third category.

The second category, where Mr. Ray describes there are about five different documents that the defense has sought copies of, and I believe copies were provided with redacted titles, several weeks ago the defense agreed that those

redacted versions were okay. And so this is kind of a follow-up or maybe a change in position to previous communications.

We believe the trial protective order would satisfy the concerns in reference to redaction of these materials. So if they could be included among the trade secret materials that would be covered by the trial protective order, that may give the company the -- cover the concerns that they have in reference -- and why they redacted some of the material.

I have not spoken to Mr. Rosen regarding that remedy; however, I've spoken to in-house counsel who is present here in the courtroom today.

THE COURT: All right. And would that be appropriate in the defendant's view, Mr. Ray?

MR. RAY: I think so, Your Honor. These materials have already been designated under the existing protective order. And so I think that given the way we laid out the trial protective order, the government's accepted our most recent revisions, I certainly don't -- they can -- they can designate materials under that. I don't have any issue with treating them in that way so long as the jury can see and understand what these titles are and we can inquire generally about them on cross-examination. That should be adequate.

THE COURT: All right. And as to the third category?

MS. MCCORMICK: As to the third category, and the court just asked the question, so are these e-mails, in reference to the third category. They are, in fact, not e-mails. The way in which materials were provided when an employee requested a particular document or a report, it was placed in a database that's referenced as LiveLink or your -- and once you go log into LiveLink, which is a password-protected database, then you're provided a link to the document that's been provided for your access. So there are no e-mails.

THE COURT: Okay. But that's traceable? We know through LiveLink which documents he accessed or --

MS. MCCORMICK: We --

THE COURT: -- that were at least made available for his access?

MS. MCCORMICK: We know based on the request, and the request was very specific as to the name of the individual, the date, and in reference to a trip that involved the American Chemical Society. The company has searched for reports fitting that description and there are none. As well, they've reached out to the individual referenced by the defense and inquired as to whether or not he ever made a trip in reference to that organization and he confirmed that he had not.

THE COURT: All right. But can it be approached a different way to determine on the history of that database

whether any documents were made available to Mr. Tan that fits that description?

MS. MCCORMICK: I think the answer to that is yes.

My understanding is that they made the search initially -- they searched the database first, didn't find anything, then they reached out to the individual who confirmed he'd never made that trip.

THE COURT: All right. The third category that I had mentioned at the outset has to do with the defendant's alternative motion in limine regarding statements of Xiamen Tungsten Company, Ltd. That motion's found at docket No. 96 with a response at docket No. 104 and that was the last outstanding motion. What's the status of that?

MR. RAY: Judge, we continue to work diligently to get that deposition scheduled. Let me just give the court a little bit of background on where those efforts have been because we've been -- and I've been in regular communication with counsel to Xiamen Tungsten Company in the nation of China.

At the last hearing, the government --

THE COURT: Now, this is a little bit different.

Actually, you're talking about my fourth category about discovery. I'm focused on -- and I know there's some overlap here -- but I'm talking about your alternative motion in limine in which you seek to exclude at trial all statements of XTC, including draft documents and e-mail attachments.

MR. RAY: I would just say I continue to believe that -- and the belief has even been furthered by communications I've had with them since the last time we were here -- that that motion will be rendered moot by the deposition's occurrence. That's what I believe about that, Judge. Is that when we have someone there from the company that has personal knowledge of these documents and can speak to the documents and both parties have the opportunity to examine those witnesses on those topics, that those evidentiary issues will thereby be rendered moot.

THE COURT: All right. Are you saying that because you think the depositions will show the statements were not as perceived by the FBI or because Mr. Tan did not adoptively adopt those statements?

MR. RAY: More the former but perhaps both to some degree. But I certainly think that more that when these -- when these individuals can explain the meaning of these provisions, that they will by and large be not as they were perceived by the FBI. And certainly the government can have the opportunity to inquire as fully as they wish of those involved in the making of them as to their content.

THE COURT: All right. Now, there's no question that Mr. Tan signed those documents?

MR. RAY: There was a single document, Your Honor, yes, that he -- that was an offer letter. And yes, he signed

that, I don't disagree with that, but the question is just what was meant by the parties to it.

THE COURT: All right. Got it. Got it. So it really goes to the meaning of the statements contained therein?

MR. RAY: I think that's right. As it relates, Your Honor -- I'm not sure that every single statement in the entirety of the government's production was adopted by Mr. Tan. But as it relates to that single letter, Your Honor, I do believe that he did, in fact, sign that.

THE COURT: All right. So now going to the fourth category that I had anticipated in terms of that discovery.

MR. RAY: And my apologies, Your Honor, for being out of order.

THE COURT: No, not at all.

MR. RAY: The government -- so obviously, Your Honor, to use a deposition at trial, the adverse party need have had notice and an opportunity and motive for cross-examination. The government has indicated to us that they need to use a particular interpreter provided by the Department of Justice as a part of that. That is what it is. The government indicated to us at the last hearing that the interpreter was not available until the 26th or 27th of September. I very promptly reached out to counsel for the company and they said that did not work for the deponents and we began looking at alternative dates.

Now, here's what we've had -- there's a little bit of a unique issue, Your Honor, which I learned about in the past few weeks, which apparently is for the last week apparently the whole nation of China has been on essentially a nationwide holiday. And so from the 1st through the 7th of October was just totally impossible is my understanding.

I will say that the counsel for that company, an outside law firm, was still reasonably responsive to me during that period. But the people at the actual company they said apparently the folks go home to different parts of the country and it's just -- I don't know. A week off for the whole country sounds pretty extraordinary to me. But be that as it may --

THE COURT: But the lawyers continued to work?

MR. RAY: Apparently so. Maybe it's not too

different in that regard than it might be here.

So we've began working on that, Judge. I've been told by Ms. McCormick last Friday that from the perspective of the interpreter through the Department of Justice, they can do it on any Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, knowing, Your Honor, we have another bit of an unique issue here which is doing it in video conference there. First thing in the morning there is actually pretty much last thing in the evening here.

So they had indicated, Your Honor, availability at the end of this week, but Ms. McCormick says that the interpreter

from the Department of Justice apparently cannot make it at the end of this week. And so I believe we have -- I've heard from them and indicated that the 23rd of October may, in fact, finally work. I believe that works for Ms. McCormick and for -- for the interpreter. And if that won't work, we will find some other Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday in the balance of this month on which that can occur. And I think from our perspective that is a -- that is a decent summary of where that issue stands. I certainly don't want to purport to speak on Ms. McCormick's behalf.

THE COURT: Thank you, sir. Ms. McCormick. And if you're in trial with me on the 23rd, I may let you out a few minutes early.

MS. MCCORMICK: I just mentioned that to my co-counsel. I just wanted to clarify a couple of things, Your Honor.

While the United States is working diligently with the defense to schedule and facilitate the depositions, we are not agreeing or waiving our objection to admissibility of the deposition testimony for trial. I think that's still an issue to be determined but we are working closely with counsel.

One of the difficulties is the ability to travel not on a -- at the beginning of the week. Most of the departments designate a travel date, and so we did ask counsel for scheduling on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday to assist us in

facilitating the travel of the linguist who will be traveling from out of state.

I think the series of events or communications that counsel provided is not inaccurate. At our previous pretrial, I represented to the court that we would attempt to schedule the depositions on the 25th or 26th of September; that didn't work for the company. So it's just been us trying to find a date certain that would work for both parties and for the linguist to travel in and now also for co-counsel on behalf of the United States to also participate. It sounds like we might have a date certain.

THE COURT: Good, good. All right. Karen, currently we're set for trial on what date?

DEPUTY COURT CLERK: October 21st.

MR. RAY: And if I could just very briefly, Your Honor, just something else that is relevant to this.

Our subject-matter expert on the subject matter of these alleged secret materials, Jack Adams, actually had a surgery late last month and he's not yet certain that he could make the 21st in any event. He has told me that he will be free of medication and he certainly will be available in the month of November.

I had had, Your Honor, a discussion with counsel, both Ms. McCormick and Mr. McKenzie, prior to court commencing and they had raised -- and we certainly agree -- I don't know if

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it's possible that we could have any type of special setting in this case, perhaps a little earlier than the normal docket, given the impendency of the Thanksgiving holiday. I don't think anyone wants us to approach so closely that we run into having the trial spill over after that. They raised that. Frankly, that's preferable to us if it's possible with the court. If it's not, then be that as it may, we will whatever the court will accommodate. THE COURT: We'll, I'll take a look at my calendar. I mean, typically we're booked up until the first day of the trial week. Karen, do we have with the week before Thanksgiving and then the three days before Thanksgiving? Or is it only the three days with Thanksgiving in between that and our next trial week? **DEPUTY COURT CLERK:** The 18th is the week before Thanksqi vi ng and then we have the three days of Thanksqi vi ng. THE COURT: All right. So we begin on the 18th? **DEPUTY COURT CLERK:** Correct.

THE COURT: So we have eight days that we could try the case. How long do we expect this case to be tried?

MS. MCCORMICK: Your Honor, in Looking at the government's case in chief, we think our case would take about six days.

THE COURT: All right. You all will understand that

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as a state trial judge who has to get re-elected, you don't like to have a jury in the box on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. You're not a very popular judge when you do Fortunately, I don't have to worry about that so much that. here except that people start paying less attention on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, especially if you have people who have cooking duties, you know, cooking turkeys, that sort of thing. People like to get out. So the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is not a great day to be trying lawsuits. So that leaves us really with seven hard days. Now, I

don't have a particular problem with continuing the jury trial to the following Monday --

MS. MCCORMICK: We were actually --

THE COURT: -- personally.

MS. MCCORMICK: I'm sorry to interrupt, Your Honor.

Yeah, go ahead. THE COURT:

MS. MCCORMICK: But the government was actually proposing or discussing with counsel beginning on November 12th, which is that Tuesday right after Veterans Day.

> THE COURT: Let me see what my docket --

DEPUTY COURT CLERK: I mean, we have a few sentencings set that week.

MR. RAY: One of them is my client, Your Honor. He's had a stipulated 11(c)(1)(C) agreement to five years and so there certainly would be no prejudice to him. That's

1 another matter I have. I just -- and I understand the court 2 may have a panoply of other things. But there certainly would 3 be no prejudice to Mr. Marin to setting that sentencing on a 4 different day. MS. MCCORMICK: Well, I'm also the prosecutor in 5 6 that case. So --7 MR. RAY: Understood. Here we all are; right? THE COURT: What else? 8 9 **DEPUTY COURT CLERK:** That week we have a total of 10 five sentencings set at this point. 11 THE COURT: Do we have anything other than 12 sentencings that week? 13 DEPUTY COURT CLERK: No, we do not. And also the 14 week of the 26th and 27th of November prior to Thanksqiving are 15 the days we had given to the preliminary injunction hearing. 16 THE COURT: Oh, that Monday and Tuesday? 17 **DEPUTY COURT CLERK:** That Tuesday and Wednesday. 18 **THE COURT:** Tuesday and Wednesday. 19 **DEPUTY COURT CLERK:** It hasn't been -- yes. THE COURT: All right. Well, so we could juggle 20 21 some of those sentencings to the Monday before Thanksgiving, 22 which is the, what, 25th? 23 DEPUTY COURT CLERK: Correct. 24 THE COURT: Be difficult to put five of them on the 25 same day, or six, but we could move some of them then. Ιt

1 looks like you may be in luck. 2 Karen, do you see any reason why we couldn't do that? **DEPUTY COURT CLERK:** No, I do not. I mean, we can 3 4 get those five moved around. That's fine. 5 THE COURT: Okay. Let's do that then. We'll give 6 you the special setting on November 12th. Frankly, this 7 doesn't happen very often. So --MS. MCCORMICK: Thank you, Your Honor. 8 9 MR. RAY: Thank you, Your Honor. 10 THE COURT: I think that's much better than going 11 the week of Thanksgiving. 12 MR. RAY: We do too, Judge. Frankly, the court's 13 concerns that were identified are concerns that Mr. Tan and I 14 had as well so we're grateful to be able to accommodate it 15 earlier. And I, frankly, believe, Judge, if we start on the 16 12th, I don't see any way we couldn't get the case to the jury 17 before that week that ends the 18th. Our case is not going to 18 be more than a couple of days, I don't believe. 19 THE COURT: Right. I mean, we'll get it to the jury 20

by Wednesday, it appears.

All right. Is there anything else that we should address here today?

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MS. MCCORMICK: Well, Your Honor, the court had specially set a couple of deadlines and pretrials. Will those be reset in light of the court entertaining the special setting

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Brian P. Neil, RMR-CRR U.S. District Court - NDOK

October 30th is a

THE COURT: So let's move it -- rather than having

it on the Friday, let's have it that Wednesday or Thursday.

DEPUTY COURT CLERK: Oh.

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